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producer  
profligate

*ducere*, to extend, bring forth: *prō-*, forward; see *mo-* + *ducere*, to lead; see *deuk-*.] — *prō-duc'ible*, *prō-duce'a-* *ble* *adj.*

**Syns:** *produce*, *bear*, *yield*. The central meaning shared by these verbs is "to bring forth as a product": *a mine producing gold; a seed that bore fruit; a plant that yields gum*. **prō-duc'er** (*prō-dōō'sr*, -*dōō'*, -*prō-*) *n.* 1. One that produces, esp. a person or an organization that produces goods or services for sale. 2. One who finances and supervises the making and public presentation of a play, film, or similar work. 3. A furnace that manufactures producer gas. 4. *Ecol.* A photosynthetic green plant or chemosynthetic bacterium, constituting the first trophic level in a food chain; an autotrophic organism.

**producer gas** *n.* A combustible mixture of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen, generated by passing air with steam over burning coke or coal in a furnace and used as fuel.

**producer goods** *pl.n.* Goods, such as raw materials and tools, used to make consumer goods.

**prod'uct** (*prōd'akt*) *n.* 1. Something produced by human or mechanical effort or by a natural process. 2. A direct result; a consequence. 3. *Chem.* A substance resulting from a chemical reaction. 4. *Math.* a. The number or quantity obtained by multiplying two or more numbers together. b. A scalar product. c. A vector product. [ME, result of multiplication, produced < Med.Lat. *productum*, result of multiplication < neut. p.part. of Lat. *prōducere*, to bring forth. See *produce*.]

**prod'uction** (*prō-dūk'shan*, -*prō-*) *n.* 1. a. The act or process of producing: *the production of lumber*. b. The fact or process of being produced: *a movie in production*. 2. The creation of value or wealth by producing goods and services. 3. Something produced; a product. 4. An amount or quantity produced; output. 5. a. A work of art or literature. b. A work produced for the stage, screen, television, or radio. c. A staging or presentation of a theatrical work. 6. An exaggerated spectacle or display. — *prō-duc'tion'al* *adj.*

**production line** *n.* See *assembly line* 1.

**prod'uctive** (*prō-dūktiv*, -*prō-*) *adj.* 1. Producing or capable of producing. 2. Producing abundantly; fertile. 3. Yielding favorable or useful results; constructive. 4. *Econ.* Of or involved in the creation of goods and services to produce wealth or value. 5. Effective in achieving specified results; originaive. 6. *Medic.* a. Producing mucus or sputum. b. Forming new tissue: *a productive inflammation*. 7. *Ling.* a. Of or relating to the linguistic skills of speaking and writing. b. Of or relating to a morphological or morphophonemic element that is freely used in the creation of new derivatives. — *prō-duc'tive-ly* *adv.* — *prō-duc'tive-ness* *n.*

**prod'uctiv'ity** (*prō-dūktiv'i-tē*, -*prōd'akt-*) *n.* 1. The quality of being productive. 2. *Econ.* The rate at which goods or services are produced, esp. output per unit of labor. 3. *Ecol.* The rate at which radiant energy is used by producers to form organic substances as food for consumers.

**prō-ēm** (*prō'ēm'*) *n.* An introduction; a preface. [ME *proheme* < OFr. < Lat. *prohemium* < Gk. *prohōmion* : *pro-*, before; see *mo-* + *oimē*, song.] — *prō-ē'mi'al* (*prō-ē'mē-āl*, -*ēm'ē-*) *adj.*

**prō-ēn'zyme** (*prō-ēm'zim'*) *n.* The precursor of an enzyme, converted into an active enzyme by proteolysis.

**prō-ēs'trus** (*prō-ēs'trəs*) *n.* The period immediately before estrus in most female mammals, characterized by development of the endometrium and ovarian follicles.

**prof** (*prōf*) *n.* Informal. A professor.

**prof.** *abbr.* Professional.

**prof'a-na'tion** (*prōf'ā-nā'shan*) *n.* The act or an instance of profaning; desecration.

**prō-fane** (*prō-fān'*, -*prō-*) *adj.* 1. Marked by contempt or irreverence for what is sacred: *profane words*. 2. Nonreligious in subject matter, form, or use; secular. 3. Not admitted into a body of secret knowledge or ritual; uninitiated. 4. Vulgar; coarse. — *tr.v.* *faned*, *fan'ing*, *fan-es*. 1. To treat with irreverence. 2. To put to an improper, unworthy, or degrading use; abuse. [ME *profane* < OFr. < Lat. *prōfānus* < *prō fānō*, in front of the temple : *prō-*, before, outside; see *mo-* + *fānō*, ablative of *fānum*, temple; see *dhē-*.] — *prō-fan'ly* *adv.* — *prō-fane'ness* *n.* — *prō-fan'er* *n.*

**prō-fan'ity** (*prō-fān'i-tē*, -*prō-*) *n.* *pl.* -*ties*. 1. The condition or quality of being profane. 2. a. Abusive, vulgar, or irreverent language. b. The use of such language.

**prō-fess** (*prō-fēs'*, -*prō-*) *v.* -*fessed*, -*fess'ing*, -*fess'es*. — *tr.* 1. To affirm openly; declare or claim. 2. To make a pretense of; pretend. 3. To claim skill in or knowledge of: *profess medicine*. 4. To affirm belief in: *profess Catholicism*. 5. To receive into a religious order or congregation. — *intr.* 1. To make an open affirmation. 2. To take the vows of a religious order or congregation. [ME *professen*, to take vows < OFr. *profes*, that has taken a religious vow < Med.Lat. *professus*, avowed) < < Med.Lat. *professāre*, to administer a vow, both < Lat. *professus*, p.part. of *profiteri*, to affirm openly : *prō-*, forth; see *mo-* + *fateri*, to acknowledge; see *dhā-*.] — *prō-fess'ed-ly* (*-fēs'id-ly*) *adv.*

**prō-fes'sion** (*prō-fēsh'ən*) *n.* 1. An occupation requiring considerable training and specialized study: *the profession of law*. 2. The body of qualified persons in an occupation. 3. An act or instance of professing; a declaration of belief. 4. A faith or belief. 5. A faith or belief. 6. A faith or belief.

**prō-fes'sion'al** (*prō-fēsh'ə-nəl*) *adj.* 1. a. Of, relating to, or suitable for a profession: *professional ethics*. b. Conforming to the standards of a profession: *professional ethics*. 2. Engaging in a given activity as a source of income or as a career. 3. Performed by persons receiving pay for showing great skill; expert. — *n.* 1. A person who professes a profession, esp. a learned profession. 2. One who lives in a given or implied occupation. 3. A skilled worker; an expert. — *prō-fes'sion'al-ly* *adv.*

**prō-fes'sion'al-ism** (*prō-fēsh'ə-nəl-iz'm*) *n.* 1. Professional status, methods, character, or standards. 2. The use of professional performers, as in athletics or in the arts. 3. The use of professional methods in the arts. — *prō-fes'sion'al-ize* (*prō-fēsh'ə-nəl-iz'*) *tr.v.* -*ized*, -*izes*. To make professional. — *prō-fes'sion'al-ism* (*prō-fēsh'ə-nəl-iz'm*) *n.*

**prō-fes'sor** (*prō-fēs'ər*) *n.* 1. a. A college or university teacher who ranks above an associate professor. b. A teacher or instructor. 2. One who professes. [ME *professor* < Lat. *professor* < *professus*; p.part. of *profiteri*, to profess. See *profess*.] — *prō-fes'sor-i-al* (*prō-fēs'sōr-i-āl*, -*sōr'i-*) *adj.* — *prō-fes'sor-i-al-ly* *adv.* — *prō-fes'sor-ship* *n.*

**prō-fes'sor-i-ate** or **prō-fes'sor-i-at** (*prō-fēs'sōr-i-āt*, -*sōr-i-*) *n.* 1. The rank or office of a professor. 2. A college or university professors considered as a group.

**prof'er** (*prōf'ər*) *tr.v.* -*ferred*, -*fer'ing*, -*fers*. To offer; to present; to tender. See *Syns* at *offer*. — *n.* The act of offering; an offer. [ME *profren* < OFr. *poroffren*, to offer : *prō-*, forth (< Lat. *prō-*; see *mo-*) + *offeri*, to offer (< Lat. *ferre*; see *offer*).] — *prōf'er* *n.*

**prō-fil'ien-cy** (*prō-fish'ən-sē*) *n.* *pl.* -*cies*. The state or quality of being proficient; competence.

**prō-fil'ient** (*prō-fish'ənt*) *adj.* Having or marked by an advanced degree of competence, as in an art. — *n.* An expert or adept. [Lat. *proficiens*, *proficient*, p.part. of *proficere*, to make progress. See *mo-*.] — *prō-fil'ient-ly* *adv.*

**Syns:** *proficient*, *adept*, *skilled*, *skillful*, *expert*. These adjectives mean having or showing knowledge, ability, or skill in a profession or field of study. *Proficient* implies an advanced degree of competence acquired through training. *Proficient* in Greek and Latin. *Adept* suggests a natural aptitude improved by practice: *adept at cutting straight*. *Skilled* implies sound, thorough competence and often experience: *a skilled craftsman*. *Skilled* adds to the idea of skill the idea of manual dexterity in performance or achievement: *skilled in the use of the loom*. *Expert* applies to one with consummate skill and command: *expert in her playing*.

**prō-fil'e** (*prō-fil'*) *n.* 1. a. A side view of an object or a feature, esp. of the human head. b. A representation of a feature or a structure seen from the side. 2. An outline of an object. See *Syns* at *outline*. 3. Degree of exposure to public view: *visibility kept a low profile*. 4. A biographical essay focusing the subject's most noteworthy characteristics and achievements. 5. A formal summary or analysis of data representing distinctive features or characteristics. 6. *Geol.* A vertical section of soil or rock showing the sequence of the various layers. — *tr.v.* -*filed*, -*fil'ing*, -*files*. 1. To draw or shape a profile. 2. To produce a profile of. [Ital. *profilo* < *profilare*, to draw in outline : *prō-*, forward (< Lat. *prō-*; see *mo-*) + *filare*, to draw a line (< Lat. *filare*, to spin < Lat. *filum*, thread) : *wh-*.] — *prō-fil'er* *n.*

**prō-fit** (*prōfit'*) *n.* 1. An advantageous gain or return. 2. The return on a business undertaking after all expenses have been met. 3. a. The return on an investment after all charges have been paid. b. The rate of increase in net worth of a business enterprise in a given accounting period. c. Income from investments or property. d. The amount received for a commodity or service in excess of the cost. — *v.* -*it-ed*, -*it-ing*, -*its*. — *intr.* 1. To make a profit. 2. To derive advantage; benefit. — *tr.* To benefit. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *proficere* < p.part. of *proficere*, to progress, to profit : *prō-*, forward; see *mo-* + *fateri*, to make; see *dhē-*.] — *prō-fit-less* *adj.*

**prō-fit'a-ble** (*prōfit'ə-bəl*) *adj.* Yielding profit; advantageous or lucrative. See *Syns* at *beneficial*. — *prō-fit'a-ble-ly* *adv.*

**prō-fit'a-ble-ness** *n.* — *prō-fit'a-ble-ly* *adv.*

**profit and loss** *n.* Accounting. An account showing net gain and loss over a given period.

**prō-fit'eer** (*prōfit'ēr*) *n.* One who makes excessive profit on goods in short supply. — *prō-fit'eer-ly* *adv.*

**prō-fit'er-ole** (*prōfit'ər-ōl'*) *n.* A small round object, as a coin. [Fr., perh. dim. of *profiter*, to profit < OFr. < *proficere*.] See *mo-*.

**profit shar'ing** (*shār'ing*) *n.* A system by which employees receive a share of the profits of a business enterprise.

**prō-fit'gate** (*prōfit'gāt*, -*gāt'*) *adj.* 1. Given over to dissipation; dissolute. 2. Recklessly wasteful; wildly extravagant.

**prō-fil'iate** (*prō-fil-i-āt*) *n.* 1. A profligate person; a wastrel. [Lat. *prōfiliare*, to ruin, cast down : *prō-*, forward (< Lat. *prō-*; see *mo-*) + *filare*, to strike down.] — *prō-fil-i-ate-ly* *adv.*

**prō-fil'ma** (*prō-fil'mā*) *adj.* 1. Done as a form of entertainment. 2. Provided in advance so as to preserve the memory. [NLat. *prōfiliā* : *prō-*, for the sake of; *fil-*, of form.]

**prō-fil'ma** (*prō-fil'mā*) *adj.* -*er*, -*est*. 1. Coming from, or coming from a great depth; deep. 2. Coming as if from the depths of one's mind; profound. 3. Thoroughgoing; far-reaching; beyond what is superficial or obvious. 4. *Medic.* a profound silence. [ME *profunde* < Lat. *profundus* : *prō-*, before; see *mo-* + *fateri*, to make; see *dhē-*.] — *prō-fil'ma-ly* *adv.* — *prō-fil'ma-ness* *n.*

**prō-fil'ma-dity** (*prō-fil'mā-ditē*, -*prō-*) *n.* *pl.* -*ties*. 1. Depth of intellect, feeling, or meaning. 2. A result of creative effort; a product. 3. A result of creative effort; a product. 4. *Off. progenie* < Lat. *progenies* < *prognere*, to beget.]

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profile  
Portrait of Bianca Maria  
Sforza by Giovanni de Predis  
(1450?–1520)?